

REMARKS

In the Office Action under reply, claims 8-12, 16, 17, 19 and 21, all the claims pending in this application were rejected for various reasons.

To expedite the prosecution of this application to its successful conclusion, claims 8-9 and 16, 17, 19 and 21 are canceled. New claims 22-25 are presented. Claims 10-12 are amended to depend from new claim 22. Accordingly, claims 10-12 and 22-25 are presented for consideration. Of these claims, claims 22-25 are independent.

Claim 19 was rejected under 35 USC 101. Claim 19 is replaced by new claim 24 which conforms to the USPTO guidelines for computer-related inventions. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 24 is in the form permitted by 35 USC 101.

Claims 8, 16, 19 and 21 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. These claims are replaced by new claims 22, 23, 24 and 25, respectively. It is respectfully submitted, these new claims conform to the tenets of 35 USC 112. Proper antecedent basis is provided for the terms used in these claims.

The Examiner objected to claim 11 because the expression, "objects a user should pay attention to" allegedly is not disclosed. It is respectfully submitted this expression is found in the sixth embodiment which presents a street as an area which includes "objects a user should pay attention to" and also presents a desert as an area which does not include "objects a user should pay attention to" as examples. Accordingly, this expression in claim 11 finds support in the disclosure of Applicant's specification.

The Examiner objected to the term, "degree of succession" in claim 12. This term has been removed from the claim; and claim 12 now is clear and definite.

Claims 8, 16, 17 and 21 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as allegedly being anticipated by the paper "Speed-dependent Automatic Zooming for Browsing Large Documents" by Igarashi and Hinckley, presented at the November 5, 2000 ACM Symposium (referred to here as Igarashi). It is believed the Examiner intended to reject claim 19 as well.

As mentioned above, new claims 22, 23, 24 and 25 replace claims 8, 16, 19 and

21. These claims recite the following features not described or suggested by Igarashi:

... determining, when said range is successively shifted, a predetermined parameter value related to an image to be displayed based on an altitude of virtual point of view according to a movement speed in a coordinate system in an instructed direction;

... identifying a plurality of original images with respective parameters defined based on the parameter value determined ... identifying a plurality of original images with respective parameters defined based on the parameter value determined ...;

... performing a predetermined converting process upon the plurality of original images so that the parameter values of the plurality of original images match the parameter value determined ... and ... outputting a final image obtained by combining the plurality of original images so that their corresponding areas are made to overlap.

Support for these features is found in the specification, and especially the description of the six embodiments therein. Therefore, since the newly presented independent claims recite features not found in Igarashi, it is respectfully submitted these new claims are not anticipated by Igarashi and are unobvious over this reference. Accordingly, claims 22-25 are in condition for allowance.

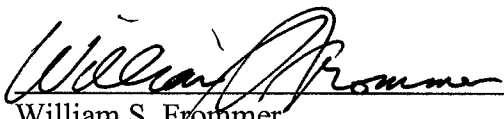
Claims 10-12 now depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 22. Since these dependent claims include all of the limitations recited by claim 22, and since claim 22 is patentable over Igarashi, it follows that claims 10-12 likewise are patentable over this reference for the same reasons mentioned above.

Statements appearing above in respect to the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the undersigned attorney and, in the event the Examiner disagrees with any of such opinions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the references providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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